



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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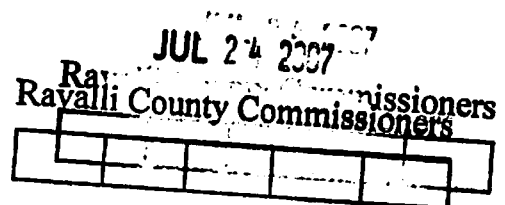
No New Starts; Mop-up and Monitoring Continue on Existing Fires

HAMILTON, MT; JULY 23, 2007. --- No new starts today, but not all firefighters get the chance to catch their breath. The Bitterroot National Forest has 18 fires in some phase of suppression, mop-up and monitoring. Here's the run down on the fires we are working to suppress:

- Low Martin, Sula Ranger District. Started on 7/21; currently 1/10 acre in size. Being suppressed.
- High Martin, Sula Ranger District. Started 7/21; 14 firefighters completing mop-up.
- Rock Cree 34 west of Lake Como on Darby Ranger District. Started 7/20; 3 acres in size. In patrol status
- Mountain House, East of Hamilton on Darby Ranger District. 4.7 acres in size. Two engines on scene mopping up.
- Half Pete fire in Deep Creek drainage on West Fork Ranger District. E acres, showing little activity. Being monitored by air patrol.
- Harlan Gulch on Darby Ranger District. 47.5 acres. Personnel on scene doing mop-up and patrol.
- Michael Fire on Darby Ranger District. 99.7 acres in size. Personnel on scene completing mop-up and patrol.

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In addition, we have 11 fires in the Frank Church – River of No Return, Anaconda-Pintlar and Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Areas which are being managed as wildland fire use (WFU) fires and carefully monitored by air patrol. These include:

- El Capitan WFU. 25-30 acres in size
- Elkhorn Ridge WFU. 7 acres
- Snake Creek WFU – minimal fire spread or activity
- Saddle Gulch WFU in Gabe Creek – 1/10 acre with little fire activity
- Kurtz WFU – minimal fire spread or activity
- Harrington Mountain WFU – 100 acres with active burning
- Hay Stack Creek WFU – 1/10 acre; no fire activity in recent days
- Harrington Ridge WFU – 200 acres in size with active burning.
- Swet Cabin WFU – minimal fire spread or activity.
- Magruder Mountain #1 WFU – 1 ½ acre in size; no visible smoke since 7/19
- Magruder Mountain #2 WFU – 3 ½ acres with minimal recent activity.

A fire weather watch has been issued for Tuesday due to potential for afternoon thunderstorms.

Current information regarding these fires and any new starts can be found at the Bitterroot National Forest's Dispatcher's website, <http://63.196.254.151/WildWeb/WCMT-BRC.htm> .

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